

Robert Angus Bain

Born: 28 Aug 1830 Dundee, Forshire, Scotland

Age: 26

Early Lehi Resident

Rescuer of the Willie Company

Robert had joined the Church in Scotland and was the first of his family to emigrate.

About two years later, in 1856, the rest of his family came to Utah with the Willie Handcart Company. This consisted of his mother, Margery Bain Smith (51), sisters May Bain (22), Jane (17), Mary (15), Elizabeth (13), and brother, Alexander (6). Also traveling with the family was May's best friend, Euphemia Mitchell (23), who had been disowned by her family when she joined the Church.

Robert was living in Lehi and working for Brother Lorenzo Hatch. He had been very ill at the time his family was coming across the plains. He tells about it in his own words:

"Many days I went hungry and I was taken down with Mountain Fever. I lay four weeks.

The Sisters Hatch and a mother Eastman were very kind to wait on me. When I was getting better the word came from President Young that my mother, sisters, and little brother were on the Plains in a handcart company short of food and many were dying every day.

"Brother Hatch loaned me a yoke of cattle and a wagon and filled it with hay and food and some clothing. I was so weak they had to lift me into the wagon, put the whip in my hand and I started for the Plains to meet my mother and family.

"When I got to the city, Brother Willis helped me and fed the team and made me very comfortable for the night and helped me off the next day towards the mountains. I

got better every day and got in with a company going to the Fort [Ft. Supply near Ft. Bridger] for supplies. They were very kind and the women folks baked a lot of bread and churned butter so as I could take some to my mother and family when I met them. I then drove over to Fort Bridger thinking the Willie Company would be there but was disappointed.

"I met Brother Rockwell camped with his train of supplies. He got a Brother Boliner to put my team in a meadow where there was good feed for the night. The word came that the company was worse off than we had thought. I got the team and drove until dark that night and camped and met them the next day coming up the hill after crossing the Green River.

"I met my sisters and brother and the joy to find them living, but where was Mother? Sister May dropped at my feet thanking God for sending me to them. She then told me Mother had gone off so as not to die in front of her children and to rest. I then drove on to find Mother laying in the sagebrush nearly gone. I gathered her up in my arms and got her in the wagon. My heart overflowed with love and gratitude to God. My mother said to me, 'I couldn't be more happy and thankful to see you than if I were to be in the highest Kingdom in Heaven.'

"[God] had preserved them in life in the midst of death and I had been able to find them. The bread and the butter was a sweet morsel to them. Mother gained in health every day. We made it to the Valley November [9]. We went up with the rest of the company that were there in front of the Beehive House and while waiting to be told where to go, Brother Willie, God bless him, claimed us and took us to his home in the Valley. Sister Willie was so good and kind to my mother and sisters."

The following is from Robert's sister, Elizabeth's account: "About three miles on this side of Green River, as I was walking ahead of the train, leading my little brother of six, and encouraging him along by telling him stories of what he would get when we arrived at the Valley, he said, 'When we get to that creek, I wish we could see our brother, Rob.'

"I said, 'Come along, maybe we will when we get to the top of the bank.' When we arrived at the top of the bank and looked down we saw a wagon with just one yoke of oxen on. We had never seen the like before so we waited on the summit until they should pass. The man stared at us, and as his team came beside us, he yelled 'Whoa' to the oxen. It was then we knew him. He jumped off the wagon and caught his sisters in his arms as they came up with the cart. How we all wept with joy!

"The cart was then tied behind the wagon. Little Alex climbed into the wagon as happy as a prince, instead of a poor tired child. The next question from Rob was, 'Where is Mother and sister Mary?'

"'They are behind somewhere, Robby. You will find them by the road.'

"Mother was still sick, and when she stopped to rest she had to lie down. She could not sit up. Some had died that way; they would go to sleep and never awaken. Mary was afraid that Mother would do likewise and tried to arouse her by telling her about a team coming with only one yoke of cattle on. Mother replied, 'Well, never mind, Mary. Don't bother me. I am so tired.'

"'Well, Mother, the man is running this way. It surely is Robert.'

"'Oh no, Mary. That would be too good to be true!'

"Well, she was soon convinced, as Robert took her in his arms and helped her into the wagon. As he did so, Mother exclaimed, 'I couldn't be more thankful to get into the Kingdom of Heaven than I am to see you, and lie here and rest.'"

Robert became acquainted with Euphemia Mitchell and they were married about a month later in Lehi. Their marriage was sealed that same year in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They eventually settled in Smithfield, Cache County, where Euphemia gave birth to the first twin girls born there. They had a store and a farm and Robert was the town Doctor for many years and also pulled teeth. He was an Officiator in the Logan Temple, a Patriarch, and took care of the tithing house. He was best known for his profession as a miller. He died in May of 1905, leaving Euphemia a widow for the next 26 years. She died at the age of 98, having been honored at many Pioneer celebrations as the oldest living pioneer there for many years.